

EPA-1062

"Huang, Ann-Marie"  
<Ann-Marie.Huang@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>

To Phil North

cc

bcc

01/07/2011 04:19 PM

Subject RE: Fraser Return 2010

Hi, Phil!

Wow, that's a big issue! Well...the short answer to the Pebble Mine TV ads might be that we are currently in the process of a BIG "Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River" - a multi-year, multi-million dollar process that was announced in 2009 following the near record low return of Fraser sockeye.

There are a number of documents on that website that might be useful to you:  
<http://www.cohencommission.ca/en/>

The "calendar & transcripts" section also has all of the documentation that has been entered into evidence to date. And the "reports & publications" will likely be useful for the questions you pose below.

I'd suggest taking a look at what's available on the Cohen Commission website for starters. For question 1, we're meeting next week (Pacific Salmon Treaty process) to start to look at the post-season numbers, but we won't be able to answer that for a while, yet. For questions 2 & 3, let me know if you don't find anything on the Cohen Commission website, and I'll see if I can point you towards a Habitat person.

-amh

-----Original Message-----

From: North.Phil@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:North.Phil@epamail.epa.gov]

Sent: January 4, 2011 4:23 PM

To: Huang, Ann-Marie

Subject: RE: Fraser Return 2010

Hi Ann-Marie,

Here is my issue: A very large copper mine is being proposed for the head waters of the Nushagak and Kvichak Rivers in Bristol Bay. As you might imagine there is a great deal of controversy. The mining company, the Pebble Limited Partnership, has aired television ads asserting 2010 Fraser River returns as proof that copper mining does not hurt salmon. In order to be able to answer questions about this I am trying to learn more about your phenomenal runs this year and the Fraser River system in general.

I am wondering if information exists on: 1) the distribution of salmon in the various tributary systems of the Fraser (and in particular if there are any tribs that had a disproportionate influence on 2010 returns), 2) the health of the various tributary systems, 3) stressors in the tributary watersheds influencing system health.

If you can point me toward any other information or have ideas that might provide insight it would be helpful.

Were runs of other species of salmon up also?

Thanks and Happy New Year to you too.

Phil

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"To protect your rivers, protect your mountains."

From: "Huang, Ann-Marie" <Ann-Marie.Huang@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>  
To: Phil North/R10/USEPA/US@EPA  
Cc: "O'Brien, David" <David.O'Brien@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>, "Grant, Sue" <Sue.Grant@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>  
Date: 01/04/2011 02:32 PM  
Subject: RE: Fraser Return 2010 - Query from US EPA

Hi, Phil!

In the very most general of terms, we ended the season off with a total return of 34.5M Fraser sockeye, split into the follow four run timing groups:

Early Stuart	105k
Early Summer	3.8M
Summers	5.2M
Late Run	25.4M

Please keep in mind that these are the final in-season numbers. There were some indications towards the end of the season that the Late Run estimate may be closer to 20M. The Fraser Panel will be meeting next week in Vancouver (and again in February) to start assessing the post-season information and to generate a preliminary post-season number, and then a final post-season number. The schedule for assessing post-season numbers is pushed back this year, due to the high numbers of fish on the spawning grounds - the last ground crews were still counting in late November!

There are weekly updates that are posted on the PSC website that you may find helpful: [http://www.psc.org/news\\_frpnews.htm](http://www.psc.org/news_frpnews.htm)

Otherwise, if you have more specific questions, just shout.

Happy New Year!  
Ann-Marie

Ann-Marie Huang  
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Please note new DFO email naming convention in effect:  
ann-marie.huang@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

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From: O'Brien, David  
Sent: January 4, 2011 3:11 PM  
To: Grant, Sue; Huang, Ann-Marie  
Cc: 'north.phil@epa.gov'  
Subject: Fraser Return 2010 - Query from US EPA

Hi Sue, Ann-Marie,

I received a phone call today from Phil North, US EPA Alaska, requesting information regarding the salmon returns to the Fraser in 2010. Although I didn't ask for much detail, Mr. North was interested in information about both return strength and which systems/tribs returns were attributed. Perhaps one of you would be able to assist with this request. I've cc'd Mr. North so he can elaborate.

Belated Happy New Year!

Dave.

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